

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1. A computer-implemented method for generating search preferences from  
2 user input, the method comprising:

3           identifying input authority weights for a plurality of pages, wherein an input authority

4           weight represents a user's weight of a page in terms of interest;

5           distributing a page's initial authority weight over one or more pages that are linked in a

6           graph to the page with distribution occurring recursively over links and pages until

7           an end condition is met; and

8           using a resulting authority weight for a page in effecting a search result list.

1                   2.       The method of claim 1, wherein effecting the search result list  
2 comprises one or more of reordering search hits and highlighting search hits.

1                   3.       The method of claim 1, wherein the end condition is that a  
2 predetermined number of links are traversed.

1                   4.       The method of claim 1, wherein the end condition is that a less than a  
2 predetermined threshold of authority weight remains to be distributed.

1                   5.       The method of claim 1, further comprising pre-computing an authority  
2 weight vector for a graph using a set of reference pages in the plurality of pages.

1                   6.       The method of claim 5, further comprising combining an authority  
2 vector for one or more predetermined reference pages with an authority vector for one or  
3 more user-specific reference pages of the plurality of pages.